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25. (Twice Amended) A display system comprising:

a first backend pipeline for processing data;

a second backend pipeline for processing graphics data disposed in parallel to said first processing pipeline;

a multi-format frame buffer memory having on-screen and off-screen areas each operable to allow said frame buffer to simultaneously store data in graphics and video formats;

a input port for receiving both graphics and video data, each word of said data associated with an address directing said word to be processed as either graphics or video data;

circuitry for writing a word of said graphics and video data into a selected one of said areas of said multi-format memory;

memory control circuitry for controlling the transfer of data between said first backend pipeline and said frame buffer and between said second backend pipeline and said frame buffer;

a display unit; and

overlay control circuitry for selecting for output to said display unit between data provided by said first backend pipeline and data provided by said second backend pipeline.